

1999 Mercury Cougar

Vital Info

Editor's Note: This windshield installation is a remove and re-install. If replacement is called for, interior moldings may not require removal.

Windshield

Removal

Remove the passenger-side windshield wiper with a 14 mm socket and ratchet. There is a spring-loaded washer under the retaining bolt for the wiper—remove it before you lift the wiper off its mounting post.

Lift the hood to access the retaining bolt for the driver-side wiper. Remove the wiper with a 14 mm socket and ratchet (remember the washer). Pull the wiper off its mounting post.

Use a Phillips screwdriver to remove the three retaining screws in the center of the cowl. Then, using an angle driver, reach the two Phillips screws in the corners of the cowl. (These are difficult to reach because they lie under the corner of the hood.)

Peel off the hood's rubber weather-strip to expose five T30 torxs screws at the bottom of the cowl—remove them, then remove the cowl (which comes out in two pieces).

Close the hood. The windshield has a unique, three-component molding system. If you're careful, the rubber molding along the roofline can be removed undamaged and be reused.

The two plastic "A" pillar moldings interlock with six metal clips attached to metal studs along the inside edge of each "A" pillar. These moldings are also reusable, but be careful to avoid damaging them or the mounting studs during removal and reinstallation.

Using a small screwdriver, lower the interior dome light. Pull off the two electrical connectors for the light,

exposing two T25 torx screws; remove them to lower the headliner.

Pull down the plastic trim cover for the dome light. Using a small screwdriver, release the locking clip for the power connector for the sunroof, and disconnect it.

Pop off the trim cover for the driver-side sun visor retaining screws on the left side. Remove the two Phillips screws underneath to drop the visor, and then release the wires for the vanity mirror light, and remove the visor.

Push in the release clip for the visor's locking clip, and pull it down from the headliner.

Pull off the breakaway rear view mirror.

Repeat the same procedure to remove the passenger-side sun visor.

Pull down the interior door weather-strip and pop off the "A" pillar trim panel with a panel removal tool. Use the same procedure for both sides.

Lower the headliner and place a spacer between it and the roof to allow for clearance while cutting out the glass.

Use tape to mark the location of the windshield setting blocks so you will not cut them by mistake.

Place a protective cover over the hood and dash to protect them. Tape it in place on the dash, if necessary.

Note: Wear safety glasses and gloves whenever you handle or cut glass.

Spray water between the pinchweld and glass to help lubricate the cutting surface.

Place an 8-inch blade on the glass cutout knife and insert it in the pinchweld at the top center. Cut around the corner and down the passenger side to the bottom.

Go back to the top center and cut across the top, around the corner and down the driver's side to the bottom corner.

Use an inflatable bag, like the pumper, and lift the top of the glass. This will give clearance to cut out the bottom.

Caution: Don't lift the glass too high; this will cause excess stress, which could break the windshield.

Be careful when cutting out the bottom; there is a double band of urethane at the bottom, and it may be difficult to reach the bottom band. After the urethane has been cut loose, use a razor knife to release any remaining stringers.

Lift the glass out of the pinchweld and place it on a windshield stand to prep it for reinstallation. Remove any dirt or debris from the pinchweld with a clean, lint-free cloth.

Note: Do not use any solvents—solvents will contaminate the urethane bond.

Installation

Use a razor knife to dress the pinchweld for installation of the new glass. Trim the old urethane bead to approximately 1 to 2 mm.

Brush away any debris after trimming the old urethane. Use Essex U-413 pinchweld primer to cover any scratches. Trim the old urethane from the windshield, and then clean the windshield with Essex glass cleaner GC-800. Concentrate on the outer edges where the urethane will touch the glass. Dry set the windshield, and mark it with tape.

Apply Essex U-401 glass prep on the perimeter of the glass where it will touch the urethane, and immediately wipe it off. Repeat this procedure for best results. Now apply Essex U-402

glass primer to the same area. Reapply both beads of urethane along the cowl edge of the windshield, and be sure to place glass prep and primer along both lines on the windshield while prepping it. Reapply the top molding.

Use Essex U-216 Betaseal, a quick cure, two-part urethane. Attach parts A and B to the mixing nozzle and then insert it into the Betaseal application gun. Shoot a small amount onto a piece of paper or cardboard to mix it before you apply it to the pinchweld. The V-shaped nozzle allows a high profile on the new urethane bead for maximum contact with the glass.

Note: The urethane is bonded directly to the finished paint. This is Ford's first time using the "primerless to body paint" paint system.

Apply a uniform bead of urethane around the pinchweld. Remember to lay a double bead at the bottom and paddle smooth any seams in the urethane bead.

Firmly press the glass back into place in the pinchweld, and make sure to line up the locator tape.

In the reverse order of their removal, replace the "A" pillar trim panels and door weatherstrips, headline and sun visors, dome light, rear view mirror, cowl, rubber weatherstrip, moldings, and wiper blades.

Clean the windshield.

Front Door Glass

Removal

Note: The '99 Cougar offers optional side impact airbags incorporated into the front seat backs. Take care to avoid serious injury.

Release the plastic trim cap on the door pull handle and remove the Phillips screw underneath.

Remove the two Phillips screws in the front bottom corner of the door trim panel.

Remove the Phillips screws at the front and back edge of the trim panel.

Lift the door trim panel of the door, and disconnect the door handle cable, which slides out of its slotted position. Disconnect the power window switch, and remove the door trim panel.

Pull off the interior belt molding.

Using a Phillips screwdriver, remove the stereo speaker from the door part way; release the speaker wire clip to remove the speaker entirely.

Peel back the weather barrier to access the glass mounting hardware.

Reconnect the power window switch, and lower the glass to align the mounting hardware with the access holes in the door.

Using a 10 mm socket, loosen the bolt at the front of the glass it presses on, which holds the front of the door glass in place.

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Remove the 10 mm retaining bolt at the back of the door glass—it goes all the way through the glass and has a plastic sleeve around it to protect the glass. Make sure this sleeve is on the bolt when you replace it.

Lift the glass out of the channel.

Installation

Set the glass back in the channel and align the hole in the glass with the regulator. Replace the 10 mm bolt. Tighten it for the mounting clamp at the front of the door.

Check the glass position by opening and closing the door. Make any adjustments at the retaining bolt at the back of the glass.

Replace the door weatherstrip and all the remaining parts in the reverse order of their removal.

Clean the glass.

Quarter Glass

Removal

When removing the quarter glass, exercise caution to avoid damaging the two locating pins on the assembly. If the pins are damaged and you are reinstalling the same part, it is suggested you hold the assembly with tape until the urethane cures.

Also, there are two body holes beneath the quarter glass assembly that are covered with a special tape. If the tape is damaged, reseal completely; otherwise, serious body rust will occur.

Remove the trim panel with a small screwdriver, and remove the two T25 screws underneath.

Using a 17 mm wrench, remove the seat belt retainer from the B-pillar post.

Remove the clothes hanger with a Phillips screwdriver. Use a T45 bit to remove the seat belt retainer for the back seat.

Remove the two T25 screws from the trim panel cover for the rear cargo light. Disconnect the wire for the light and remove the trim panel.

Pull back the trim panel at the bottom of the quarter glass, but not completely.

Pop off the trim panel on the B-pillar post and the trim panel from around the quarter glass.

Tape the glass to the car body while you're cutting it out.

Spray water on the pinchweld before cutting. Cut around the perimeter of the glass, being very careful not to cut the locating pins for the glass.

Pull the glass off the pinchweld.

Installation

Clean the pinchweld using only water and a clean cloth.

Trim the old urethane bed to 1 to 2 mm high.

Use Essex U-413 pinchweld primer to cover any scratches.

Clean the old urethane from the quarter glass, and clean the glass with Essex GC-800 glass cleaner. Then apply Essex U-401 glass prep around the perimeter of the glass where it will touch the urethane—wipe it off immediately. Repeat this procedure for best results.

Apply Essex U-402 glass primer to the same area.

Apply a bead of Essex U-400 urethane around the pinchweld, following the same path of the old urethane bead.

Press the glass into the pinchweld using the two locator pins for alignment.

Tape the glass in place until the urethane cures.

Replace the remaining parts in the reverse order of their removal. Clean the glass.

Backlite

Removal

Remove the rear wiper blade with a 13 mm socket and ratchet.

Lift the hatchback and remove the two plastic retainers for the interior

trim panel closest to the glass. Lower the panel out of the way to protect it during the cutout procedure.

Using a panel removal tool, release the side trim panels from both sides of the backlite. Disconnect the rear defroster plugs, then fold the wires out of the way so you don't cut them accidentally.

Pull off the top trim molding with a panel removal tool.

Use tape to mark the location of the glass.

Spray the pinchweld. Using a glass cutout knife, cut around the perimeter of the glass. Use a razor knife to remove any urethane stringers.

Lift the glass out of the channel and place it on a stand.

Installation

Using a razor knife, trim the old urethane in the pinchweld to 1 to 2 mm. Cover any scratches with Essex U-413 pinchweld primer.

Clean the glass. Apply Essex U-401 glass prep and wipe it off. Repeat this procedure for best results. Then apply Essex U-402 glass primer to the same area.

Use Essex U-216 Betaseal to replace the glass, following the same procedures used in the windshield installation in preparing the urethane kit.

Apply a bead of urethane around the entire pinchweld, following the same line as the original bead.

Paddle any seams in the urethane to ensure there aren't any voids in the bond with the glass.

Press the backlite into place on the pinchweld, and tape it down until the urethane cures.

Replace all the remaining parts in the reverse order of their removal.

Installation courtesy of Carlite by Visteon. ■